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General Phonological and Morphological Justifications of Homophones

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Abstract

This research presents an analysis of (750) homophonic sets. It shows two types of systematic linguistic justifications stand behind the sound sameness and spelling difference of homophony. The phonological justifications are the Sound Spelling Correspondence (SSC) , Elision (E) , and Doubling Grapheme(DG), while the morphological justifications includes the Suffix Formation (SF) and Contraction (C). The order and percentage of the occurrences of them are SSC (48 %), E (21.5 %) , SF (20 %), DG (7.1 %), and C (2.3 %) respectively . SSC is the dominance justification - the substitution of graphemes which are identical phonologically- and often occurs with the other justifications as a participant . E – graphemes are phonologically elided and orthographically present- comes secondly and the DG - orthographical doubled grapheme - takes the fourth place. Both E and DG make the spelling difference obvious. The SF and C have the third and fifth places respectively, which entail the English learner to consider these morphological issues seriously. A small group (1.1 %) includes complex homophonic sets created by the cooperation of more than one justification. Consequently, homophony is not arbitrary phenomenon and certain generalizations are coined which can be useful to know the odd nature of homophones and predict them systematically .

1 . Introduction :

Homophones (or homophony which is the state of being homophones) are words of a language have the same pronunciation but differ in meaning ,spelling or origin , e.g. *bear* (the animal) and *bare* (unclothed). In more

comprehensive way the word *homophone* is used " only " for (one or two or more) words with the "same sound , but different spellings and different meaning ". The following sentence gives a clear and simple instances about a very common set of homophones in English , "The *two* boys want *to* play *too*". The word *homophone* is formed from (homo-)the conjunction of Greek prefix which means *same* and the suffix (-phone) means *sound* .Any English language learner can know that the three words *two* , *to* , and *too* have the same pronunciation ,but their spellings and meaning are different (*a couple* , *for the purpose of* , and *also* respectively).In English there are hundreds of sets of homophones (1,2) .

Cooper (3) describes homophones(homonyms ccording to his nomination) as " odd , quirky English words " and the " little hidden gems ". He also considers them as " the prim numbers of the English language " because " they cannot be predicated by any rules of grammar or diction ", i.e., they cannot be " systematically " found in the dictionary. These words are regarded as the "raw materials in pun " and they are used to deceive the reader or to suggest multiple meanings . The last usage is common in poetry and creative literature. In many sources written about this topic a very popular poem(Oronym) is often presented . Here is an stanza of it :

I never used to no , was it e before eye ?
(Four sometimes its before e .)
But now I've discovered the quay to success.
It's as simple as won , too , free ! (2,3)

Alfred Aloisi (4) uses these ambiguous words in a creative way as in the following example :

- "Aye", said the sailor 'I saw the pirate with a black patch over one eye '.
- The ant crawled upon the shoe of our aunt Jean.

Homophones have interesting and unique linguistic properties that make them fertile materials to be used in many linguistic researches and hundreds of psycholinguistic experiments. This research is concerned exclusively with studying *Homophones* but not *Homonyms* which are" lexical

items which have the same form (sound and spelling) but different in meaning ",e.g. *bear* (the animal) and *bear* (carry) as Crystal (1) defines . It is noticed that many writers make no distinction in the nomination between *Homophones* and *Homonyms* . Largely they use the second term as a synonym for the first . Cooper (3) points out that the word *homonyms* is actually a misnomer but it was used so in the past to refer to the term *homophone*s which becomes more popular and is known only recently. In addition, homonyms is a more general terms and includes both homophones and homographs (5) .

The resent research is an attempt to set up systematic linguistic justifications of the phenomenon of homophony- the identical sound and different spelling in certain words- which is contrasted with the common idea that *homophones cannot be predicated by any rules of grammar or diction* (3), and it is an arbitrary phenomenon having no systematic interpretation. To achieve this aim, the following points are carrying out :

a. examining (750) sets of homophones taken largely from the lists mentioned in (1 – 3) - more specifically the first one - and according to certain conditions stated below ,
b. classifying the sample into classes according to the linguistic characteristics and nature of the homophonic sets and making statistic analysis to find the frequency and percentage ratio of each class,
c. trying to state the phonological and morphological justifications for being homophony in each class and discussing the results with setting up certain generalizations depending upon these findings ,and
d. helping the language learner to make an association between the phoneme and its correspondent graphemes in order to predict systematically the other homophone in a specific homophonic set .

The research is done on more then eight lists of homophones published in the internet , some of these lists are :

1- *An English Homophones Dictionary*

This dictionary is prepared by Peter Suber and A.L.P. Thorpe and includes more than thousand homophonic sets.(6)

2- *Homophone List*

It includes 993 homophonic sets. This list has one pair for every letter of the alphabet.(7)

3- *Alan Cooper's List*

This list includes 706 sets of homophones and is prepared by Alan Cooper with the contribution of more than 60 persons whose names are mentioned in same site.(8)

4- *List of Homophones*

It is a list of exclusively British- English homophones and includes 401 homophonic sets .(9)

It is so important to mention here that all the lists (except the third one) adopt the *standard contemporary American English* because there tend to be "far more" homophones in American English and Scottish than in British English since the latter distinguishes more vowel sounds than the two formers (1,2,10).

The research adopts the following rules in studying and analyzing the selected sample of 750 homophonic sets :

1- Standard contemporary American English is completely adopted so a very broad view of how words are pronounced in practice is taken , not just how they should be pronounced according to the dictionary.

2- The sample of this study consists of (750)sets taken largely from the first list which already and mostly includes all the homophonic sets of all the other lists.

3- Each set of analyzed sample consists of a pair of homophonic words only which *are not* one of the following :

a- non-English words , b- hyphenated compounds, c- acronyms, d- spelling variation (e.g. analyze / analyse), e- letters of alphabet, and f- pairs of words that ,when pronounced together, sound like some other single word,(e.g. a cord /accord) .

1 . 1: Data Analysis :

The study and analysis of the selected (750) homophonic sets show that there are two types of systematic linguistic justifications stand behind the identical pronunciation of these words which have different orthography .These are the phonological justifications (Sound Spelling Correspondence SSC, Elision E and Doubling of Grapheme DG) and morphological justifications (Suffix Formation SF and Contraction C) . Table [1] below gives a clear idea about the occurrences of these systematic findings provided with the necessary statistics :

Table [1]

The linguistic Justifications of Homophones

No.	Justification	Abbreviation	Frequency	Ratio
١	Sound Spelling Correspondence	SSC	360	48 %
٢	Elision	E	161	21.5 %
٣	Suffix Formation	SF	151	20 %
٤	Doubling of Grapheme	DG	53	7.1 %
٥	Contraction	C	17	2.3 %
٦	Sets of Multiple Cases	SMC	8	1.1 %
Total	--------------	----------	٧٥٠	**100%**

According to the above statistic analysis, the phonological justifications dominate on the largest number of the studied sets and the SSC , E , and DG come in the first , second, and fourth places respectively. The morphological justifications, SF and C have the third and fifth positions respectively and with the a clear distinction of the SF . Finally a small group is appeared with a very low occurrence and a remarkable characterization.

2. Results and Discussion :

2 . 1: Sound Spelling Correspondence (SCC) :

The results of the analysis show that the main justification of the homophony in(360 ; 48 %) sets of the sample is Sound

Spelling Correspondence (SCC **).** This justification based on the relationship between *Phonemes* "the minimal units in the sound system …" of a language and *Graphemes* "the smallest units in the writing system ". This relationship is called "Phoneme- Grapheme Correspondence"(1,12). To be more precise, it focuses on Crystal's statement (11) that "there are far more graphemic alternatives for a phoneme than there are phonemic alternatives for a grapheme". He points out to a study indicating that "in English there are 13.7 spelling per sound , but only 3.5 sounds per letter". The underlined statement in this quotation is related mainly and wholly with the phenomenon of homophony and SSC .

Elgin (13), Lyons (14) and others indicate that English has only 26 main graphemes which make up its alphabet and they are usually written within angle brackets < > to show their special status . The job of these graphemes is to represent the 36 separate simple phonemes (each having one or more allophones) which are written between slashes / / . The graphemes number contrasts with the (ideal) basic principle of IPA (the International Phonetics Alphabet) ,i.e., having a different letter for each distinguishable speech sound. In some cases there is two graphemes (digraph as <*ck , sh , ph*>) or three graphemes (trigraph as *tio*) are used to represent one phoneme only (<ck> for / k / , < ph > for / f / , and < tio> for / S /). This condition corresponds to what Garman (12) states that English has "many to many letter sound relationships). Generally ,the term *grapheme* will be used for all cases .

The real situation in this study proves the fact which is "one– to –many correspondence" ,i.e., one phoneme corresponds to many graphemes. For example, the phoneme / i: / corresponds to each of these graphemes < ee , ei, ea, ie, i-e, e , e-e > and / k / corresponds to< k , c , ck , ch , qu(e) > . The process of correct *Substitution* one grapheme instead of the other and both are correspondents to the same phoneme may create the sound sameness and the spelling difference in certain words ,i.e., the state of being homophony and this agrees with the fact that "there are so many ways of spelling a single vowel", and the

same case occurs with consonants but with less degree (12,13). Knowing this issue will be very helpful for the language learner to know , predict and then make use of these ambiguous and wonderful words.

As it has been mentioned above , that SSC is the *only* justification of homophony in 360 sets which is nearly the half of the studied sample . This number is classified into three groups (and sometimes in subgroups) according to the type of the phoneme that is represented by the different graphemes in the homophonic set . This classification is shown in the following points with the frequency and selected examples for each group.

A. Consonant SSC :

1- / k / corresponds to < k , c , ck , ch , qu(e) >
Frc: 18 sets

E.g.: disc / disk ; bark / barque ; sick / sic ; coin / quoin ; click ; clique ; Yack / yak ; liken / lichen ; coral / choral ; tack / tach .

2- / s / corresponds to < s , c , sce , z >
Frc: 11 sets

E.g.: sent / cent / scent ; vise / vice ; quarts / quartz ; hertz ; hurts

3- / t / corresponds to < t , d , tt , dd >
Frc: 10 sets

E.g.: feudal / futile ; trader / traitor; ladder / latter ; madder / matter .

4- / z / corresponds to < z ,s >
Frc: 4 sets

E.g.: cozen / cousin ; lazer / laser .

5- / f / corresponds to < f , ph >
Frc: 2 sets

E.g.: few / phew ; filter / philter

6- / S / corresponds to < sh , ssu , tia >
Frc: 2 sets

E.g.: fisher / fissure ; marshal / martial.

7- / ks / corresponds to < x , cs >
Frc: 1 set

E.g.: toxin / tocsin

B. Vowel SSC :

a- Simple Vowels :

1- / i: /corresponds to < ee , ea ,ie , -e-e ,e , i ,ea , ei > Frc: 51 sets

E.g.: beech / beach ; freeze / frieze ; reed / rede ; me / mi ; mean / Mein ; peace / piece ; seamen / semen .

2- / ə / corresponds to <er , ar , or , ir , ur, e , a , i , o > Frc: 33 sets

E.g.: alter / altar ; better / bettor ; faker / fakir ; auger / augur ; affect / effect ; resin ate / resonate ; mucous / mucus ; pendant / pendent .

3- / u: / corresponds to < oo , oe , ou , o , wo , ew , u-e , ou-e > Frc: 29 sets

E.g.: shoo / shoe ; stoop / stoup ; too / two ; loot / lute ; root / route ; to / two ; overdo / overdue ; dew / due ; mule / mewl ; jewel / joule.

4- / i / corresponds to < i, e, ui , y , ey , ee , -ie , ea, ae, ay > Frc: 26 sets E.g.: rabbit / rabbet ; gilt / guilt ; story / storey ; warrantee / warranty ; roomy/ roomie ; bailee / bailey ; seer / sear ; peer / pier ; Sunday / sundae .

5- /o:/corresponds to <oo, uo, oa, ou, ore, are, our, au, a, o ,aw, oar > Frc: 24 sets

E.g.: floor / flour ; boor/ boar ; poor / pour ; moor / more ; wore / ware ; yore / your; aught /ought; Paul / pall; horse / hoarse; forth /fourth ;forgo / forego; worship / warship; awl / all; bawd / baud ; course / coarse .

6- / ə: / corresponds to < ir , ur , er , or , ear ,are > Frc: 12 sets

E.g.: fir / fur ; birth / berth ; serge / surge ; worst / wurst ; herd / heard ; purl / pearl ; tare / tear ; earn / urn .

7- / e / corresponds to < e , a , ei , ea , ai , ie > Frc: 7 sets

E.g.: caret / carat ; there / their ; pear / pair ; wear / ware ; tear / tier.

8- / ^ / corresponds to < u , o , o-e > Frc: 6 sets

E.g.: son / sun ; sum / some .

9- / a: / corresponds to < a , aw , ea > Frc: 2 sets

E.g.: bra / braw ; hart / heart

b- Diphthongs :

1- / ei / corresponds to < a , ai ,au , ei , ea , ay , ey > Frc: 43 sets

E.g.: wave / waive ; gage / gauge ; sane /seine ; grate / great ; rain / rein ; bay / bey .

2- / ou / corresponds to < o , ow , o-e , oa ,ou , oo , ew > Frc: 19 sets E.g.: so / sow ; cote / coat ; sole / soul ; poll ; pole ; broach / brooch .

3- / ai / corresponds to < i , y , ai , uy , ie , aye , eye , io > Frc: 9 sets

E.g.: I / eye; style / stile ; isle / aisle ; slight / sleight ; by / buy ; die /dye ; vial ; viol ; aye / eye .

4- / oi / corresponds to < oy , ouy > Frc: 1 set

E.g.: boy / bouy

c- Syllabic Consonant SSC :

l- / l̩ / corresponds to < al , el , il , ol , le , yl > Frc: 19 sets

E.g.: basal / basil ; principle / principal ; carpal / carpel ; hostel / hostile ; capital / capitol ; idol /idyll ; idol / idle .

2- / n̩ / corresponds to < n , en , on > Frc: 4 sets E.g.: lessen / lesson ; lightning / lightening ; ordnance / ordinance .

C. Multiple SSC :

This category represents a small group of 27 homophonic sets which are difficult to be distinguished as homophones by unprofessional English language user because in the same set more than one case of grapheme substitution occur to make the

orthographical difference is very noticeable .The analysis of the studied sample explains the following cases :

a- SSC of consonant and vowel in the same set. Frc: 24 sets

E.g.: you / ewe ; seek / Sikh ; sink / synch ; gene / jean ; file / phial ; grease/ Greece ; peak / pique ; one / won ; cachou / cashew.

b- SSC of more than one consonant in the same set. Frc: 2 sets

E.g.: faze / phase ; check / Czech.

c- SSC of more than one vowel in the same set . Frc: 1 set

E.g.: roomer / rumor.

2 . 2: Elision (E) :

The analysis shows that in (161 ; 21.5 %) sets, the elision is the main justification for they are homophones . One of the words of a homophonic set contains a grapheme which is elided phonologically , while it is absence orthographically in the other word, i.e., in its homophonic partner. This process of the phonological absence and orthographical presence creates the homophony. Roach (15) states that " in certain circumstances a phoneme may be realized as zero, or have zero realization or be deleted ". In a simpler and brief words, Crystal (1) and Hassan and El-Shayib (16) explain this term as the omission or deletion of a phoneme (vowel or consonant) or more in certain cases .

Abercombie (10) ,Crystal (11) ,and Gimson (17) specify two types of elision :

1- *established* (or historical) elision

Certain phonemes that were sounded in Anglo – Saxon " became silent by the passage of time . This form can be classified into two forms :

a- Reduced Consonant Cluster (RCC) as / *wr* , *kn* / in *write* and *know*.

b- Loss of Phoneme (LPh) , as / l / in (*walk*) or the final / *e* / in *love* .

2- *colloquial* (or contextual) elision

It is a present phenomenon appeared for the sake of phonological simplicity especially in rapid and casual speech .For example, the elided / ɵ / in *clothes* and the alveolar sounds / d / in cluster of three consonants , as in *Bundt* , (See SF later) .

The research shows that 161 sets are homophones because of E and sometimes E with SSC . This number is divided into :

A. There are 31 sets of the RCC form as shown in table [2]

Table [2]The Frequency of Occurrence of RCC Elision

No.	RCC	Frc.	Examples
1	/kn/	14	no/know ; nap/knap
2	/wr/	12	rite/write ; rack/wrack
3	/mb/	3	lam / lamb
٤	/mn/	2	dam / damn

B. There are (116) sets of the LPh as shown in table [3]

Table [3]

The Frequency of Occurrence of LPh Elision

No	LPh	Frc.	Examples
1	/h/	37	our /hour; weal /wheal; burger/burgher; way/whey ; mho/ mow
٢	/ e /	28	Aid / aide ;by / bye ; cast / caste
3	/gh/	23	mite/might ; ate/eight
4	/g/	9	rein/reign ; cosine/cosign ;nice/gneiss
5	/l/	8	have/halve ; woks/walks ; chock/chalk
6	/p/	5	Psalter / salter ; receipt/ reseat ;coo/coup
7	/t/	3	hoe/haut ; sashay/sachet
٨	/d/	1	bunt/ bundt
9	/ks/	1	foe/faux
١٠	/ɵ/	1	close/clothes

C. (14) sets of Special or Complex Cases

This category involves sets which are not easily to be recognized as homophones, so they are classified as special (or complex) cases . A set suffers of more than one case of E with or without SSC. In some sets, one homophonic word has a different elided phoneme from its partner (e.g.: climb /chime ; limb / limn ; witch / which ; core / corps ;gnu / knew ; naught / knot; colonel / kernel ; writing / righting). Also there is a set ha a word with two elided phonemes, while its partner has nothing , (e.g.: rum / rhumb) ,and the elision of the zero realization - final digraph < ue > has a place in creating certain homophonic sets, (e.g.: gang / gangue ; tung / tongue) .

2 . 3 Suffix Formation (SF) :

The research considers the addition of some inflectional suffixes (or Suffix Formation SF) the systematic linguistic justification of homophony in (151 ; 20 %) sets of the analyzed sample. In each homophonic set ,one word is a bare stem, while the other is a stem plus an inflectional suffix which causes the sound sameness in the two different spelling words. This number is classified into these points :

1- The SF of past tense and past participle makes the sound sameness in 61 sets. Although the two words of the set are somewhat very different in spelling , meaning and word class or origin, they are sounded identically because of only the addition of the suffix, as shown in the following items :

a- The simple addition of regular (-ed) suffix. Frc: 35 sets

E.g.: build / billed ; load / lowed ; rude / rued; sword / soared ; tide / tied;
coward / cowered.

b-The addition of assimilated (-ed)suffix . Frc: 18 sets

In these homophonic sets , the progressive assimilation resulted from adding the inflectional suffix is the strong and clear reason of the sound sameness. The final voiceless

consonant in the inflected word effects progressively the suffix pronunciation. Roach (15) explains this matter as " a phoneme realized differently as a result of being near some other phoneme …".

E.g.: chaste / chased ; guest / guessed; pact / packed ; tact / tacked .

c- The addition of (-en) suffix. Frc: 5 sets

E.g.: groan / grown ; scene / seen ; throne / thrown .

d- The addition of irregular (0) suffix . Frc: 3 sets

E.g.: red / read ; led / lead

2-The SF of regular plural and third person singular of present tense has a place in 99 sets to make them homophones . This category is divided into three types :

a- The addition of the plural suffix (-s) to a word of the set. Frc: 37 sets E.g.: copse / copes ; muse / mews ; nose/ noes ; rose/ rows ; use/ewes ; versus / verses ; axis/axes.

b- The addition of (-s) to a word ends with phoneme /k/ in the set makes a phonological correspondent of the grapheme <x> which is present in the other stem word. Frc: 19 sets

E.g.: bocks / box ; flacks / flax ; minks / minx ; lacks / lax ; cocks / cox .

c- The addition of the suffix requires an avoidance (or elision) of the alveolars / t / or / d / from the inflected word for the pronunciation simplification especially in casual and rapid speech, it is a kind of colloquial elision happens because of SF and it is called "avoidance of complex consonant clusters" .(15,17) Frc: 41 sets

E.g.: lens / lends ; chance / chants ; mince/mints; prince/prints; sex / sects.

3- The SF of nouns ,i.e., the addition of the derivative suffix (-er) to nouns . Fre. (2) sets (e.g.: byre / buyer ; friar / fryer).

2. 4 Doubling of Grapheme (DG) :

The study shows two categories of homophones in which DG makes a kind of *artificial* sound sameness and real-simple spelling difference in (53 ; 7.1%) sets of the studied sample . DG can be considered as a type of SSC, but it is separated for two reasons. First, Elgin (13) states that "English orthography doubles a consonant for diacritic purposes", i.e., to compensate the place of diacritics which are absence in English language and have significant value in other languages, so the word *artificial* is used. Second, it is for the sake of simplicity and differentiating. Here the consonant <d, l, m, n, p, r, s, t> are doubled orthographically to make the homophones ,as shown below :

A- DG only which is classified into two groups according to the position of doubled grapheme :

1-Final consonant or vowel doubling
Frc: 13 sets

E.g.: ad / add ; in / inn ; bel / bell ; fur / furr , bus / buss ; but / butt.

2-Medial consonant doubling
Frc: 6 sets E.g.: canon / cannon ; finish / Finnish ; gallop / galop

B- DG and SSC of some vowels or syllabic consonants occur at the same time making a noticeable form of homophony. Frc: 34 sets

E.g.: medal / meddle ; emerge / immerge ; metal / mettle ; elicit/ illicit ; Moose / mousse ; step / steppe ; gorilla / guerrilla.

2 . 5 Contraction (C) :

There are (17 ; 2.3 %) sets of homophones in which contraction – omitting letters and replacing them by an apostrophe - is the reason behind their phonological sameness . Crystal (1) defines contraction as " the process or result of phonological reducing a linguistic form so that it comes to be attached to an adjacent linguistic form, or fusing a sequence of forms so that they appear as single form ".Roach (15)states that "it is difficult to know whether contraction of grammatical

words should be regarded as examples of elision or not " but others state that contraction differs completely from elision in that "contractions are set forms that have morphologized , but elisions are not " (2) .
E.g.: it's / its ; cant / can't ;he'd / heed ; she'll / shill ; we're / weir ; you'll /Yule.

2 . 6 Multitude Cases Sets (MCS) :

The study shows that only (8 ; 1.1 %) sets – the lowest ratio of the occurrence in the sample of this research - in which more than one justification participate to make them homophones, so these class is named multiple cases sets , as exemplified in the following points :
1- SF +SSC (e.g.: flocks / phlox) 2- DG + SSC (e.g.: gin / Jinn)
3- E +SF (e.g.: rex /wrecks) 4- C +E +SSC (e.g.: aisle / I'll)

3 . The Phonological and Morphological Generalizations :

The following generalization can be coined from the above statistical and linguistic analysis and results :

1. learning all the graphemes that represent the same phoneme, for example, the language learner can predict that the word *disc* is the homophonic partner of *disk* because the graphemes < k> and the final < c> represent the phoneme /k/ , and after checking the dictionary it will be found out that *disc* has its own different meaning occurred because of the graphemes substitution which at the same time has no phonological effect. The same case can be applied to the very common substitution of < ee > by < ea > and vice versa , which both correspond to / i: /. For example, if the learner knows *beech* has a homophonic partner *beach* so it is possible to except that *feat , steal* , and *weak* are the homophonic partners of *feet , steel* , and *week* . This prediction can be assured when these words are present in the dictionary. The idea of graphemes substitution with no phonological effect can be considered the key to know the homophonic nature of SSC type .

2. Learning all the elided phonemes, i.e., or more precisely the zero phonological realization graphemes can be helpful to deduce homophones suffering E . For example, the presence of the final < b > after< m > or / m / can be helpful to know that *lamb* is the homophonic partner of *lam*. The same situation happens with the initial silent / w / ,i.e., it is easy to predict that the word *rite* and *hole* have the homophonic partners *write* and *whole* respectively. The DG that has the fourth place among these justifications and entails the language learner to never doubt that *bus* and *in* are pronounced identically as *buss* and *inn* respectively, since there is no phonological effect of the a doubling process of these graphemes .
3. The important roles of SF and C in homophony entail the learner to have a good knowledge of these morphological issues. They have strong effects in creating the sound sameness between words with different nature and spelling. For example, it is difficult to expect that the *print* is pronounced as *prince* simply when it receives the suffix (-s) or the noun *guest* is only phonologically like the verb *guess* plus (-ed) , and the past participle of the verbs *grew* and *read* are sounded as the nouns *groan* and *red* respectively . Therefore, if the learner knows the phonological changes occurred because of SF, he or she can use the inflected word as the stem of the homophonic set and in turn deduce its partner. Also the awareness of the effect of C in making homophonic words is required. For example, only if these separated words *he would* and *you will* are contracted, they will be pronounced as *heed* and *Yule* , and in turn this awareness can be used to predict new homophones of this type .

Conclusions :

This research provides an analysis which shows the following results :

1- The phenomenon of homophony is not arbitrary but there are systematic linguistic (phonological and morphological)

justifications stand behind the phonological sameness and orthographical difference.

2- The phonological justifications which involves the Sound Spelling Correspondence (SSC) , Elision (E) ,and Doubling Grapheme (DG) come in the first ,second , and fourth places with (48 % ; 21.5 % ; 7.1 % respectively), and SSC has the domination on all the others .
3- The morphological justifications including the Suffix Formation (SF) and Contraction (C) take the third and fifth positions with(20 % ; 2.3 % , respectively).
4- There is a very small group(1.1%)comes finally involving homophonic sets formed by the participation of more than one justifications, so they have difficult realizations .
5- Consequently, there is a real need to learn and understand these linguistic issues which can be helpful factors to the language learners for understanding the odd nature of these wonderful words and dealing with them creatively.

المستخلص

التفسيرات اللفظية والصرفية العامة للكلمات ألمتشابهه لفظياً

يتضمن البحث تحليل لعينة قدرها ٧٥٠ مجموعة، تتألف كل مجموعة من زوج واحد فقط من الكلمات ألمتشابهه صوتياً ، وقد أظهرت نتائج الدراسة الحالية ان هناك تفسيرات لغوية نظامية كانت السبب وراء هذا ألتشابهه اللفظي والاختلاف الإملائي لهذه الكلمات ، وهذه التفسيرات هي (التطابق بين اللفظ والإملاء، الحذف ، عملية الإضافة النهائية، مضاعفة الحرف والاختصار) . وكان الترتيب والنسبة المئوية لحدوث كل تفسير هو (٤٨% ، ٢١,٥% ، ٢٠ % ، ٧,١ % ، ٢,٣ %) على التوالي. قسمت هذه التفسيرات إلى صنفين هما اللفظية وتتضمن الأول والثاني والرابع وأخرى الصرفية وتشمل الثالث والخامس أخذ تفسير التطابق بين اللفظ والإملاء الصدارة والذي يعني عملية استبدال حروف مختلفة لكنها تعطي نفس الصوت، ويأتي هذا التفسير أيضا كعامل مشارك مع بقية التفسيرات. وجاء

الحذف ، والذي يعني وجود حروف مدغمة لفظياً في الكلمة ،جاء في المرتبة الثانية ، بينما حصلت عملية مضاعفة الحرف على الترتيب الرابع. ويسبب كلا التفسيرين اختلاف إملائي واضح . أن حصول التفسيرات الصرفية وهما عملية الإضافة النهائية والاختصار على المراتب الثالثة والخامسة على التوالي يلزم متعلم اللغة على أخذ تلك القضايا الصرفية بنظر الاعتبار في هذا الموضوع. أظهرت النتائج بان هناك مجموعة صغيرة جداً (١,١%) من الأزواج تشابهت لفظياً نتيجة اشتراك أكثر من تفسير واحد في تكوينها. وبناءا على ذلك فان هذه الظاهرة (ألتشابهه الفظي للكلمات مع اختلافها الإملائي) هي ليست ظاهرة اعتباطية وإنما هي ظاهرة محكومة بتفسيرات لغوية نظامية، ولذلك صيغت تعميمات يمكن الانتفاع منها في معرفة الطبيعة الغريبة لهذا النوع من الكلمات ومن ثم التنبؤ بها وفق قواعد لغوية خاصة .

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